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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

2006 MBC annual session begins Oct. 31

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

"Your Jerusalem needs you!" based on Acts 1:8 is the theme of the 171st annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) on October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson.

Among the worship and praise that will make up a large portion of the 2006 annual session program, messengers from the 2,114 churches in friendly cooperation with the convention will take up a number of important issues during the annual meeting, including a proposed record-setting 2007 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$33,188,934 — an increase of \$1,874,443, or 5.99%, over the current Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491.

Messengers to the 2006 annual meeting will also elect convention officers and trustees to the various Mississippi Baptist boards and committees; consider resolutions, motions, and a constitutional amendment; and hear a report from the Conference Ministries Study Committee.

The Conference Ministries Study Committee was formed in late 2005 by then-MBC President Gene Henderson, who charged the committee members with studying the condition of Gulfshore Assembly near Pass Christian, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, and with exploring all possibilities related to Mississippi Baptist conference ministries.



Cooper



Register



Luter



Shaddix

Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, and first-term MBC president, will gavel the first session to order at 8:30 a.m. on October 31. Other sessions will begin at 1:30 p.m. on October 31, 6:30 p.m. on October 31, and 8:35 a.m. on November 1.

Chuck Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, will deliver the convention sermon. Conventioneers will also hear the President's Address by Cooper and a message from Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans.

First Church, Gulfport, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The church's members have voted to sell the beachfront property and move to a new inland site. Franklin Avenue Church was inundated by flood-

waters after levees around New Orleans failed following Hurricane Katrina.

The Bible Treasure series of devotionals will be presented by Jim Shaddix, senior pastor of Riverside Church in Denver, and former faculty member at New Orleans Seminary. The music and worship portion of the program includes the Sanctuary Choir of Emmanuel Church, Grenada; the Devotion Ensemble of First Church, Gulfport; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; and the Blue Mountain College Chorale.

Information on the 2006 annual session program, how to become a messenger, accommodations, and child care can be viewed at www.mbc.org (click on the crawl at the top of the splash page).

M. Patterson, longtime WMU director, dies October 1

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Marjean Patterson, 78, former executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), died Oct. 1 at St. Catherine's Retirement Village in Madison. Visitation was Oct. 2 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, with services Oct. 3 at the church, followed Wednesday by interment at Crestlawn Cemetery, Atlanta, Ga. Earl Kelly officiated at the service.

Patterson was born in Atlanta, the daughter of Lennis and Maggie Patterson. She had one sister, Louise Bush, now deceased, and two brothers: Byron Patterson (deceased) and Charles Patterson of Smyrna, Ga.

Patterson joined the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in 1957 as director of Young Woman's Auxiliary until 1965. From 1965 until 1970, she was director of the Woman's Missionary Society, director of Baptist Women until 1971, and was executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union until her retirement in 1994, serving a total of 41 years.

"Marjean was a well-loved and respected leader who provided significant contributions to both state and national WMU during her 27 years as executive director of Mississippi WMU," reflected Wanda S. Lee, executive director-treasurer of national WMU. "She had a gentle and graceful spirit and genuinely loved people. Her love for others and for missions was beautifully expressed through her commitment and dedicated service through WMU. She had a heart for mission-

aries from Mississippi and their families, always recognizing, by name, the family members of missionaries serving both internationally and in the U.S."

"What has been amazing to me is Marjean's legacy," said Kay Cassibry, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi WMU. "There's no way you can put words to it. She touched so many different lives through so many different avenues. In this position we work with so many different age groups, from GAs on up to the oldest ladies, and she related to them all. It was her sharp wit that allowed her to build relationships with so many different people, and not just the women but with the men. You work so

closely with pastors and other men, and she had the personality and sense of humor to build those relationships, and that's what endeared her to them."

Patterson received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee in 1954, and her Master of Religious Education degree from the Carver School of Missions and Social Work, which later became part of Southern Seminary, in 1957. She also received the Master of Education degree from Blue Mountain College in 1965, and the Doctor of Humanities degree from Blue Mountain in 1997.

Rebecca Williams, past state WMU president and a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison, said, "I was on the board when Marjean became executive director-treasurer after 'Miss Ed' (Edwina Robinson). I remember her saying, 'Well, we're gonna keep on doing just like we've

always done,' and she did. Miss Ed had trained her well. What I remember about her was her wit — she could tell stories on herself that were just hilarious. It was always funny when she'd get up and speak before the men — she'd quote Paul, saying, 'I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren.' She kept us all just laughing. She was a fun lady, but a hard worker. She had such vision for WMU in Mississippi, and she went all over the state — there was no church too large or too small for her."

Patterson added ladies conferences, mission trip opportunities, a regular letter to Mississippi missionaries, a Camp Garaywa manager, and other enhancements to the work of Mississippi WMU. She helped organize support groups such as Baptist Nursing Fellowship and the Missionary Parents Fellowship. The adult lodge at Camp Garaywa, Patterson Place, was named in her honor. In her professional work with Mississippi WMU, Patterson traveled to more than 50 countries and most of the 30 states where Southern Baptist missionaries serve.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said, "For four decades Marjean Patterson was synonymous with Woman's Missionary Union in Mississippi and even beyond. She literally gave her entire life to the Lord and to the mission of seeing that the world would hear about His love. It was amazing that even in her declining years when at times she may not have known who she was she knew who the Lord was and why He had put her here."

Memorials may be sent to the Marjean Patterson WMU Camp Garaywa Memorial Fund, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or the Marjean Patterson Memorial fund at Morrison Heights Baptist Church, 201 Morrison Dr., Clinton, MS 39056.

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The quiet battlefield

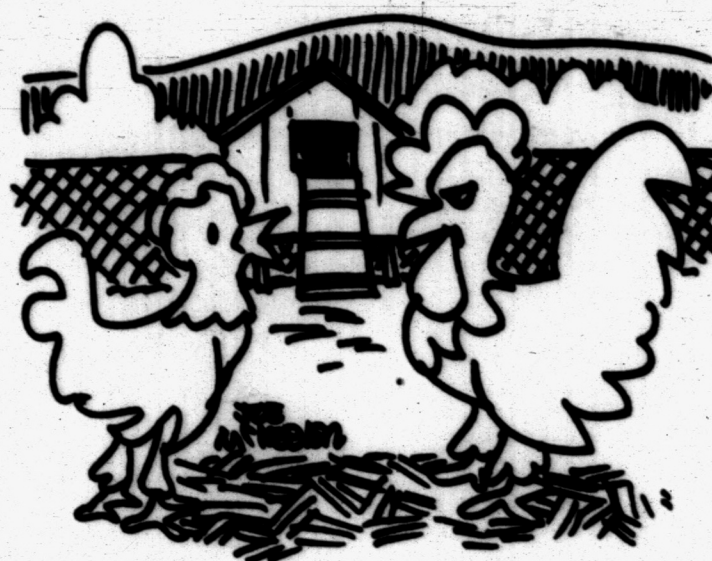
Something has been happening quietly for several years now that has resulted in major advancements for the homosexual rights movement, but has apparently slipped under the radar of most Christians. To the social, political, and religious battlefronts opened by homosexual activists, we can add businesses and corporations.

This fact was brought to the surface again with the recent announcement that Wal-Mart, the nation's largest non-governmental employer, has once again bowed to pressure from the homosexual rights movement and joined the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). According to a report in the Los Angeles Times, Wal-Mart will contribute \$25,000 to sponsor NGLCC events, pay for special workshops to teach homosexual business owners how to be successful Wal-Mart vendors, and provide at least one company executive to consult with and advise NGLCC.

"We are honored to have Wal-Mart's support of the NGLCC. Our partnership will not only provide more opportunities for the NGLCC, but the business community as a whole," said NGLCC Co-Founder and President Justin Nelson on the group's web site. "We are pleased with this addition to our organization ..."

According to their web site, NGLCC is "the largest LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) business development and economic advocacy organization in the world. The NGLCC represents the interests of an estimated 800,000 to 1.4 million LGBT owned businesses and entrepreneurs. The NGLCC is committed to forming a broad-based coalition, of LGBT owned and friendly businesses, professionals, and students of business for the purpose of promoting economic growth and prosperity of its members."

"AS MY PASTOR LIKES TO SAY,
"HE WHO WOULD RULE THE
ROOST MUST BE WILLING TO
RUFFLE SOME FEATHERS!"



When Wal-Mart amended the company definition of "immediate family" some time back to include domestic partnerships and civil unions, a spokesman for the pro-homosexual Human Rights Campaign said, "We are encouraged by this sign showing America's heartland employer understands same-sex couples share the responsibilities that come with being a family. It's only appropriate for these families to also receive the same benefits as others."

Now, before we heat up the tar for Wal-Mart, read the following braggadocio also from the NGLCC web site: "Wal-Mart joins a highly respected group of companies including IBM, Wells Fargo, JPMorgan Chase, American Airlines, Intel Corporation, Motorola, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Lehman Brothers, Travelport,

Merrill Lynch, American Express, Cisco Systems, Avis, Orbitz, Intuit, Kodak, Fannie Mae, Millennium Hotels & Resorts, and Kimpton Hotels that are working with the NGLCC to empower LGBT businesses and entrepreneurs. With the support of these companies and many more that will be joining this list for 2007, the NGLCC will continue to create opportunities for LGBT owned businesses through our SDI (Supplier Diversity Initiative)."

That list doesn't begin to count the number of local, regional, national, and international companies and corporations that have succumbed in recent years to the pressure exerted by the homosexual rights movement. Many of them have silently instituted policies that cater to the demands of the homosexual rights movement, in the hope of avoiding the public fanfare and criticism that goes along with joining a group like NGLCC.

It's true that the vehicles we drive, the computers and cell phones we use, the carpet on which we walk, the buildings in which we work, the televisions we watch, the programs on those televisions — even the food we eat — are now intricately entwined in some way with the homosexual rights movement.

Many Christians are probably surprised to know that, but shouldn't be. A quick search of the Internet provides a wealth of information on the subject. Many Christian activist groups have been sounding the alarm for years. A simple query of a store manager during a visit to his store might bring startling news. Stockholders who bother to check written corporate policies of the businesses in which they invest could ferret out such information.

It's time we became more knowledgeable.

While we have been distracted by the homosexual rights debates going on in so many of our social, political, and religious institutions, the movement continues to make great strides in our business communities. What will be next? It's hard to know, but we'd best start paying closer attention.

Lest we forget, prayer for the salvation of those involved in this movement wouldn't hurt, either.

New Orleans Seminary bivo music class opens enrollment

October 23 begins the sixth of eight courses at seven locations in Mississippi, sponsored by New Orleans Seminary and entitled, Music Administration/ Staff Relations.

The eight courses are Song Leading, Worship Planning, Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch, Reading Music: Harmony/Melody, Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff Relations, Survey of Music Resources, and Class Voice.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$125.00. A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The sixth course, Music Administration/Staff Relations, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

• **Broadmoor Church, Madison** — beginning October 23 (7-9 p.m.) Jimmy McCaleb, teacher. (601) 924-1233.

• **First Church, Booneville** — beginning October 23 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher. (662) 728-6272.

• **Northcrest Church, Meridian** — beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher. (601) 681-6615.

• **Hernando Church, Hernando** — beginning October 23 (7-9 p.m.). Barry Tweedy, teacher. (662) 429-6361.

• **Tri-County Associational Building, Columbia** — beginning October 24 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher. (601) 924-1233.

• **First Church, Greenville** — beginning October 24 (7-9 p.m.). John Burke, teacher. (662) 334-9452.

• **Winston Associational Building, Louisville** — beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Dave Tribble, teacher. (662) 803-9990.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where eight-10 students are interested in enrolling. For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Reports at odds over religious freedom advances

WASHINGTON (BP) — The State Department's annual report on international religious freedom contends that religious tolerance in Saudi Arabia and Vietnam is improving, findings that contradict an earlier and harsher assessment on conditions in the two countries from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Concerning Saudi Arabia, the State Department broke its seven-year pattern of saying religious freedom "does not exist" in Saudi Arabia. The Sept. 15 U.S. report on religious freedom overseas instead noted that there "is no legal recognition or protection of religious freedom, and it is severely restricted in practice."

The report also claimed that the Saudi government had "identified and confirmed its policies with regard to religious practice and tolerance in a number of key areas," among them revising textbooks and curricula in Islamic schools to remove "disparaging references to other religious traditions."

Following the presentation of the report to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom John V. Hanford III said in a briefing that the Saudi government — while significant problems remained in the country — was among those that had taken steps to "curb extremist ideology and encourage religious tolerance."

That assessment of Saudi Arabia prompted reaction from the USCIRF, a nonpartisan commission established by Congress in 1998 to monitor the status of religious freedom worldwide. The commission makes recommendations to the State Department regarding countries that should receive designation as "countries of particular concern" (CPCs), or those that are among the worst violators of religious freedom. Saudi Arabia received the designation in 2004 and 2005 and has been listed among the nations with no religious freedom since the commission was founded.

In its report to the State Department in May, the USCIRF said the Saudi government "engages in systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of the right to freedom of religion and belief." It also denied past State Department reports of "slight

improvements" in the country's approach to Shiite Muslims and non-Muslims.

Commission chair Felice Gaer said there was no reason for the State Department to soften its assessment of Saudi Arabia in the report submitted to Rice. "The commission is simply shocked that the Department removed longstanding and widely quoted language from its report that freedom of religion does not exist in Saudi Arabia," Gaer said.

The USCIRF also said the State Department's assertion of a greater level of tolerance is contradicted by its own report, which states "there generally was no change in the status of religious freedom during the reporting period."

Dwight Bashir, senior Middle East policy analyst at the commission, told Baptist Press that the State Department report, because it is laced with positive language, gives the appearance that the Saudis are "moving forward."

"We beg to differ," Bashir said. "Conditions on the ground may not be deteriorating, but they haven't improved. Public worship is still banned. Private worship services are often raided. Abuses by the mutawwa or religious police are still happening."

Bashir said the country may have developed policies of religious tolerance in response to requests from the U.S. government, but many have not been implemented. Doing so would be a significant step, he said, adding that the real test is "the follow-through."

"We would very much like to point to progress if it is warranted," Bashir said. "What the State Department seems to be saying is that the Saudis have adopted some policies that are forward looking, and now they are going to give them an opening to prove it." According to Bashir, that will mean doing more than revising textbooks or retraining or removing imams who teach extremist ideologies.

Saudi Arabia was one of 197 countries or territories assessed by the State Department in its 2006 report. Other countries the report lists as the foremost violators of religious freedom are North Korea, Burma, Iran, China, Eritrea, Sudan and Vietnam.

Vietnam's government, meanwhile, has "turned a corner," Hanford said in the briefing. In the State Department's report, the country is said to have made positive steps toward ensuring religious tolerance.

The USCIRF contends the Southeast Asian nation, also repeatedly given the CPC designation by the Secretary of State, should remain on the list of countries that severely suppress religious freedom. Gaer said advances in Vietnam have not been uniform and serious abuses continue against members of Vietnam's religious communities, especially those among the 54 ethnic minority groups of the country.

"The CPC designation has been an important incentive for dialogue on addressing religious freedom concerns in Vietnam," Gaer said. "Nevertheless, given the current level of engagement between the U.S. and Vietnamese governments and the ongoing religious freedom abuses, the CPC designation for Vietnam should be maintained."

President Bush will meet with newly selected Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in Hanoi in November, and Congress also is debating a Permanent Normal Trade Relations bill with Vietnam. Passage of the bill almost certainly would result in Vietnam's admission into the World Trade Organization and bolster its acceptance among the international community, said Scott Flipse, senior East Asia policy analyst with the USCIRF.

"We see the upcoming debate about the trade bill and the president's visit as an opportunity to point out problems and work for progress," Flipse told Baptist Press. "We know the president will be strong on religious freedom during his visits with government officials in Vietnam."

Flipse, like Gaer, said the CPC designation for Vietnam should remain in place for at least another year.

"There certainly is a notion that relations are improving with Vietnam, and we want the country as a strategic partner," Flipse said. "We've seen some progress, which was really initiated by them receiving the CPC designation, international pressure and their desire to join the international community. But we want to see more tangible progress, and at this point there isn't enough to lift the CPC designation."

In May, the USCIRF cited repeated abuses of religious freedom in Vietnam, even though some religious prisoners were released, forced recantations of faith were outlawed, and some churches in the Central Highlands were allowed to reopen after being closed for almost five years. New detentions, however, have occurred under "national security" and "national solidarity" provisions of the penal code. Vietnam's constitution allows for religious freedom, but extends the freedom only so far as religious practice does not contradict the policies of the state.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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AAEO sets record

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist giving to the 2006 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (AAEO) has been so generous that the offering has set a new record with three months still remaining in the giving period. Carlos Ferrer, interim chief operating officer for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), announced the record giving at the opening session of the Woman's Missionary Union national missions event on Sept. 27 at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. The AAEO is promoted each spring across the Southern Baptist Convention, but gifts are received throughout the year by local churches and state conventions and forwarded to NAMB. One hundred percent of AAEO funds are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries and their ministries in evangelism and church starting. Until this year, the most ever given to the home mission offering was \$53.8 million in 2004, and last year's total was slightly less at \$53.6 million. Ferrer said not only will the year-end total be a new record, the offering likely will exceed the 2006 national goal of \$56 million — which has only been achieved three times in the last 25 years. "2006 has been a challenging year for the North American Mission Board," Ferrer said, "but Southern Baptists, I believe, have expressed their confidence in and support of our missionaries and mission partners by giving at unprecedented levels to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Our prayer is that we will press on to the goal of \$56 million to enable our missionaries to do more evangelism, more ministry and start more churches in the U.S. and Canada."

Looking back

10 years ago

Clarke College alumni and friends gather during their annual homecoming to dedicate the Clarke College Alumni Center. The center is located in a house adjacent to the former college property in Newton.

20 years ago

Cooperative Program gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches for September 1986 total \$1,479,091 — a whopping 31% increase over the same month in the previous year and a new record for state CP gifts.

60 years ago

Churches in south Mississippi record "far below normal" drops in Sunday School attendance because of a polio scare in the area, prompting county associations to plan a special campaign to boost Sunday School attendance.

COMMUNICATION CONVERSATION

In just a few weeks, the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be meeting at First Church, Jackson. It will be the 171st gathering of our wonderful Convention. All of you are invited. Although I know that not everyone can serve as a messenger, everyone can come. Not only can everyone come you need to attend if you possibly can. Occasionally, I will hear a pastor or lay person say something like, "Well I don't need to be there. I don't get anything out of it, or I have got more important things to do." Probably each of those statements is true at one time or another for everyone. Interestingly enough, it might also be true if applied by people thinking about the weekly worship service. For the most part, it is that "what am I going to get out of it?" mentality. Probably more important is what you can give and contribute when you participate. Sometimes we need to realize it is not what we need, but what we bring to help meet the needs of others. So make your plans to come to the Convention, bring your need to be blessed, and also bring your "blesser."

What will happen at the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 31 and November 1, 2006? One, we will be reacquainted. The Neshoba County Fair is known far and wide as Mississippi's giant house party. Every summer for a couple of weeks thousands of folks gather at the little cottages



Directi

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

scattered across the fairgrounds in Neshoba County. I had heard of it all of my life, but some years ago I went for the very first time. You may have seen pictures and you may have heard descriptions of what the Neshoba County Fair is like, but if you have not been there you still do not know. It is an interesting gathering of multiple generations of families across the state and beyond whose main purpose seems to be being with each other. Oh, I know they have political speeches, rides, horses, and food, but it is the sitting, talking, smiling, and caring that always seems to carry the day. To experience the warm and gracious fellowship of Mississippi Baptists might lead you to think that our Convention gathering is the spiritual equivalent of the Neshoba County Fair. Longtime brothers and sisters get together and are reacquainted and new family members are welcomed and loved. You do not need to miss it!

The second thing that happens at the Convention is that it seems like every year someone or a number of folks say to me something like, "I did

not know that we were doing such and such, or I was not aware that we were helping here, or I did not know this was available." Healthy businesses and strong organizations continually have the equivalent of refresher courses so that their folks will stay informed and up to speed. The Convention meeting is in part a Baptist refresher course. We are reminded of who we are, from whence we have come, where we are going, and what it will take to get there. Even then some may say, "Well, I know all of that so why should I come and hear it again?" Well, you may be correct, but then again there may be things that you don't know and for sure you will hear some things packaged in a way that can possibly be refreshing, stimulating, and encouraging.

A third thing that invariably is a part of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is that we are revived. In addition to the Convention itself, there are other meetings taking place that can bless your heart: mission meetings, Pastors' Conference, seminary and college gatherings, and the Ministers Wives' Conference. Be sure to check the schedule and don't miss being a part of the area most meaningful to you. Then during the Convention itself the Committee on Order of

Business has lined up so many meaningful events which will include the address from our Convention President, Clarence Cooper, the Convention sermon by the pastor of First Church, Gulfport, Chuck Register, Bible Treasures at each session led by Jim Shaddix, and then there will be reports, business presentations, testimonies, and at the closing session we will hear from Fred Luter. You will want to be present and join with each of us as we pray that God will revive every heart.

Finally, one of the ongoing special things happening at the Convention is that both individually and as churches and associations we are resourced. In the display area of the Convention and in personal interaction with various workers from churches, associations, and the convention connections are made and resources are found to accomplish the mission of Jesus. A visit to the bookstore and display area is not just wasted time or a fellowship event, but as most of you well know there are contacts, materials, and encounters provided that could only be matched up by the Lord. Very possibly and more than likely the Lord has some resources for you. So come join us and don't miss out on what God wants to provide for your life. Rarely does a day pass that I am not privileged to be with some cluster group of Mississippi Baptists worshipping, fellowshiping, or on mission for Jesus. Again and again I have the privilege of seeing and then saying thanks for all that you are doing. Let's join together for these days and celebrate our living Lord at work among His people.

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 5, 2006

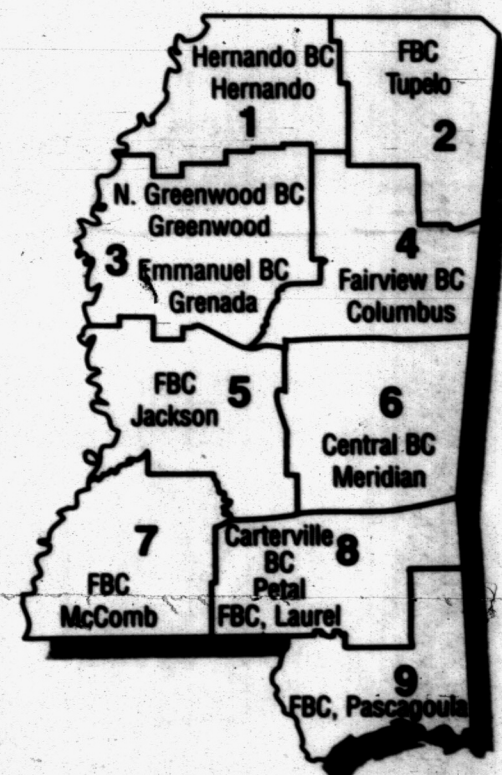
HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C-Church, O-Office
Thursday, January 25, 2007 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.			
	FBC, 300 N. Church St., Tupelo , 38801 (All Categories)	Randy Wood	C-662-842-1327
	Fairview BC, 127 Airline Rd., Columbus , 39702 (All Categories)	Slater Murphy	C-662-328-2924
	FBC, 431 N. State St., Jackson , 39201 (All Categories)	Wyndy South	O-601-272-3272
	Central BC, 2511 C St., Meridian , 39301 (All Categories)	Harry Tillery	C-601-693-4288
	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb , 39648 (All Categories)	Greg Stone	C-601-684-2971
	FBC, 605 W. Fifth St, Laurel , 39442 (All Categories)	Joy Hughlett Jimmy Little	C-601-649-5710
Friday, January 26, 2007 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.			
	Hernando BC, 11 E. Center St., Hernando , 38632 (All Categories)	Barry Tweedy	C-662-421-6361
	Carterville BC, 1115 Carterville Rd, Petal , 39465	Kathy Vail	C-601-584-9457
	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula , 39567 (All Categories)	Michaelle Harrison	C-228-762-2343
Saturday, January 27, 2007 – 9:30 a.m. - noon			
	Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd., Grenada , 38901 (All Categories)	Barry Worrell	C-662-226-5316
	North-Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood , 38935 (All Categories)	Patricia Ethridge Tommy Smith	C-662-453-2801

Contact Wyndy South for more info: 601-292-3272, 1-800-748-1651 or wsouth@mbcb.org

2007 AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

2007 Area Keyboard Festival Locations



THE SUIT PROJECT

*Merry Christmas to
Southern Baptist pastors
in Minnesota, Wisconsin,
Wyoming and Montana!*

For over 42 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$135. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, RAs, GAs, WMU groups, churches or individuals looking for a ministry to really touch someone's life.

WHERE DO I SEND MY DONATION?

Make your check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate to THE SUIT PROJECT.

MAIL TO: Men's Ministry Department, PO Box 530,
Jackson MS 39205-0530

PASTORS' WIVES: If funds are available, we will send clothing gift certificates for the wives.

QUESTIONS? Contact Deanna Vail: 1-800-748-1651,
601-292-3335 or dvail@mbcb.org

MINISTERS WIVES CONFERENCE

... OR ... NEUTRALIZING NEGATIVES

The poet has said that "into every life a little rain must fall." While the statement is true, the wisdom ignores the fact that we don't have to get wet. Using well-documented research, audience participation, and lots of humor, this presentation high-

lights practical "umbrellas" for neutralizing the negative experiences and feelings that pour into every life. Down-to-earth and funny, the content is guaranteed to equip participants with the buoys needed to stabilize joy in all situations.



Janie Walters, Madison, Mississippi

Janie is an award-winning professional with dynamic speaking skills. A master trainer with more than 25 years of teaching experience in communications. A leader with humorous presentations that challenge people to strive for the best life has to offer; and, encourages those same people to offer their best back to life. **Entertaining! Informative! Motivational! Inspirational!**

AGENDA

- 1:15 p.m. Registration
Fifth Floor of FBC, Jackson
- 1:30 Welcome, Introductions and Fellowship Greeting
Shirley Futral
- 2:00 Janie Walters
- 3:15 Fellowship
- 3:45 Janie Walters
- 4:45 Adjourn

Conference contents include:

- I. Definition of "a negative."
- II. Six things we can do to neutralize negatives!
 - 1. Change our perspective
 - 2. Adopt the Golden Rule (Do unto others....)
 - 3. Maintain good self-esteem
 - 4. Laugh a lot!
 - 5. Assume responsibility for our own feelings
 - 6. Practice the magic of "Acting as if ..."

For more information or to register, call Kay McDonnell in Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3305 or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Single Adult Life Conference

Thursday, October 26
Bethel BC, Monticello

No Charge

6:30 p.m. Jambalaya Supper
7:00 p.m. Break-outs

- "Five Love Languages for Singles" - Glenn Shows
- "Picking Up the Pieces" Miss Chocolate Gwen Williams

For info: 601-587-4661



MBSO in Worship

FBC

Picayune
October 22
6:00 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

POWER 1:08

December 28-29

SCHEDULE:

Registration begins at 1 p.m.

First Session starts at 2 p.m.

Concludes Friday at 4 p.m.

For more info, contact Harvey Ellis or Beverly Bridges at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

2007 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION YOUTH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRAL CONTESTS

Saturday, October 14, 2006

William Carey University

Hattiesburg

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 19, 2006

Fairview Baptist Church Columbus

4 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 2006

North Oxford Baptist Church

Oxford

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 2006

FBC, Meridian

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



For more info:

Church Music

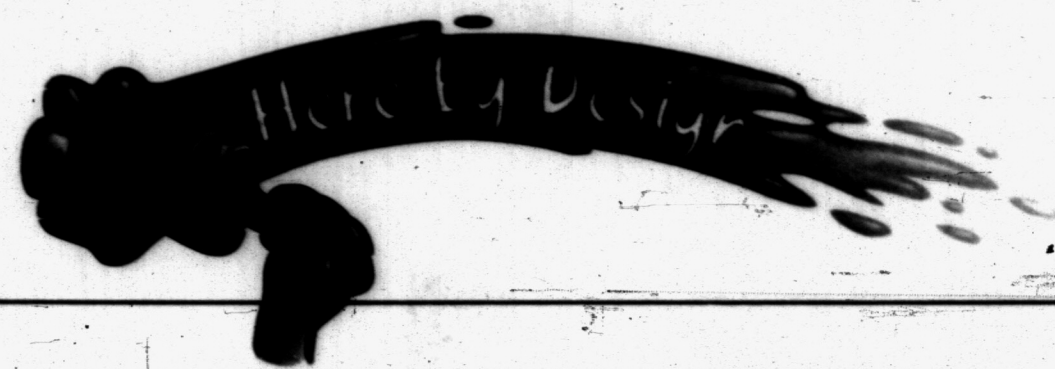
Department

1-800-748-1651

ext. 266

or

601-292-3266



Young Musicians Festival

March 31, 2007

Mississippi College Coliseum, Clinton

For 4-6 grade choirs
and/or 3-6 grade combined age choirs:

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to prepare for the festival, plus
have a spring program ready for your church.

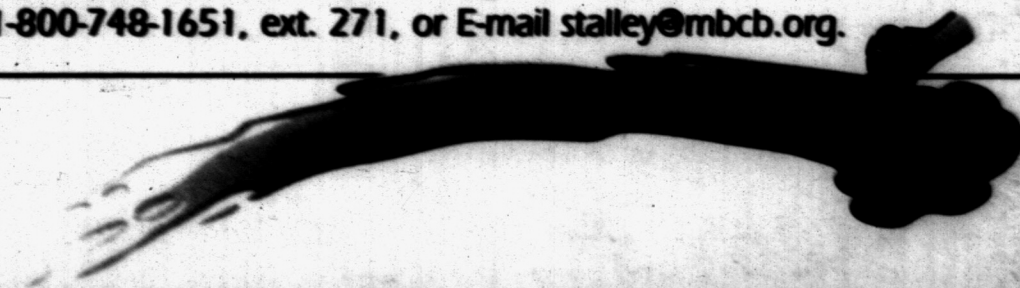
Contact the Church Music Department for information on
the drama script, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 271.

Order the 2.2 (Spring) YOUNG MUSICIANS MAGAZINE, No.
1-4158-2751-6, on the dated literature order form. Songs are
"Ancient Words," "Look Inside My Heart," "Indescribable," "Master
Designer," and "The Lord's Prayer."

Also, available, December 1, at the LifeWay Christian
Bookstore in Jackson is "I Will Praise You, O Lord," Chorister's
Guild, CGA 867. Music and teaching plans for this anthem may
also be ordered at www.DotMusicResources.com.

Other information will be available in the Noted Events Booklet
to be mailed in November.

Questions? Contact Sarah Talley, 601-292-3271,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 271, or E-mail stalley@mbcb.org.



Check it out!
www.mbcbb.org

Pray this day for...

OCTOBER 6-19, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"If our churches have any hope of true revival, it must begin with a profound new holiness in us!"
Dr. Gregory Frizzell

For: (1) World Hunger Emphasis (CAG Emphasis); (2) Many Mexicans who go to the U.S. to work, find new life in Christ. T. witnessed to his sister A. for over a year. When we arrived at her door we were able to harvest the seed that he had planted. A. has been a Christian for two years now; however, her husband C. needs Christ. Pray for him.

For: (1) CRV Banquet, Mississippi College (P/LD); (2) The McCall Royal Ambassador Camp in South Carolina has adopted the areas of Ocos, Lipa, Buena Vista, and Acos. In August, several traveled to visit the areas. Pray for Pastor A. and the church of Lipa as they face much opposition from the traditional church.

For: (1) Student Day, Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD); (2) The Khabarovsk, Russia, Team is seeking to reach the city's northern district where more than 100,000 people live who do not know Christ. Ask God to open doors as we prayerwalk, distribute tracts, and hold English clubs and other events in the region.

A woman in missionary L.'s village is a new follower of Jesus in Samogho of Mali. She is a very energetic elderly widow in the village and the only follower at this time. Because of her age, she is a respected person in the village and has much influence among the women. Pray for her boldness to share with her family and for protection.

Please pray for W. She has heard about God and His plan for her life, but she is a member of the Communist Party in China. She is struggling with the fact that she promised the party she would not believe in God. Please pray that she will make the right choice and then lead many others to believe in God.

For: (1) "Prepare the Way" Women's Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); 3 p.m., 13th-3 p.m., 14th (WMU); (2) Praise the Lord for a church-planting catalyst who will soon be among the Kul people of the Pacific Rim. Please pray for a new strategy coordinator for the Kul people.

The South Jalisco, Mexico, team writes: "Earlier you prayed for volunteers from the Georgia Baptist Convention coming to St. Lucia on July 8-14. They assisted in 'kick starting' a small-group ministry in the village of Fond Gens Libre. Rejoice that 18 people accepted Christ during that week and four Lucian leaders were trained for small group ministries."

Praise the Lord that a record crowd of 100,000 recently filled the Sangamdong World Cup Stadium in Seoul, South Korea, to attend an evangelistic event led by a well-known American pastor who called for revival in the country. Pray for revival to be experienced again in this country, and many lost souls be won into the kingdom.

Ask God to burden Russian-speaking Christians from churches in Central Asia with a heart for reaching their Muslim neighbors. Pray for them to be sensitive to Muslim culture while they unashamedly, yet humbly, present the Good News of Jesus. Pray that they will be living pictures of the kindness of God that leads people to repentance.

James Major is an army chaplain. Pray for the protection of soldiers in harm's way. Pray for his ministry to bring soldiers closer to God and help them deepen their relationship with Him. And pray for his wife during his absence.

School is not a top priority for extremely poor Bihari Muslim of Bangladesh. A Bengali Christian began tutoring these children, but, due to cost, all but one dropped out of her class. The teacher prayed. That very afternoon, five new students enrolled and two former students returned to class. Give thanks for God's encouragement.

A Southern Baptist volunteer to Pacific Rim/South Asia writes: "The Dec. 26 tsunami devastated Sri Lanka, affecting 80 percent of the coastline with over 30,000 deaths. The people there are still afraid and wonder when the next tsunami will come. Praise God for all the volunteers who sacrificed time and money to go help them."

During Ramadan, Muslims recite parts of the Quran each day during their prayers. By the end of the month, they have recited the entire book. Pray that the eyes and hearts of Muslims will be open to the message of the one true God. Pray that they will put their faith in Jesus rather than in the good deeds they do.



2007 Deacon Ministry Emphasis

is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

The Purpose Of Deacon Emphasis Is To:

- Focus on their biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Develop skills for ministry

When and How

This emphasis may be conducted at any time during the year, however, January 7-13 is designated by the MBCB as the week to emphasize deacon ministry.

To participate, the deacons would choose at least two actions and perform them during a specified time.

Church deacon chairman will receive a brochure in the mail with suggested ideas for activities.

A certificate of recognition will be presented to each deacon body that participates.

For more info, contact Kay McDonnell at 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3305 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

MISS KATIE R. GRAY
12/4/86

Parents: Tony and Karen
Church Planting
Eastern South America

MISS MARISA M. WOMBLE
12/6/88

Parents: Freddie and Karen
Church Planting
Eastern South America

MR. ALLEN D. LIGHTSEY
12/14/85

Parents: Timothy and Rebecca
Literature Distribution
Middle America

MISS KIMBERLY D. SHEARER
12/20/85

Parents: Kevin and Pamela
Strategy
Western South America

MR. NICHOLAS G. PRICE
12/21/98

Parents: Richard and Christi
Medicine
Central & Eastern Europe

**Encourage an MK
with a card today!**

MISS ABIGAIL PATTERSON
12/21/02

Parents: Tim and Dorcas
South Asia

MISS SOPHIE JOHNSON
12/27/02

Parents: Daron and Judy
South Asia

MISS LAURA LITTLE
12/29/92

Parents: Bob and Amy
West Africa

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.
Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name,
MBCB WMU MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Benton Church, Benton: Homecoming, Oct. 22; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Charles Moore, pastor.

Camp Creek Church, Guntown: Revival, Oct. 6-8; 7 p.m. nightly; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; Don Miller, Fort Worth, Tex., speaker; Jasper Butler, Fannin, music.

Clear Branch Church, Florence: Homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch with cloggers as entertainment; Bill Chancellor, speaker; Joe McGraw and Becky Arrington, music.

Damascus Church, Flora: Homecoming, Oct. 8; gospel sing, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Sonny Bradshaw, pastor and speaker; Damascus choir, Brenda Quattlebaum, and Trooper Hales, music.

Eastside Church, Pearl: 75th anniversary, Oct. 14-15; Sat., reception, 2-3:30 p.m.; worship, 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 9:15 and 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Puppeteer John Yates and Rob Burns, Sat.; Dennis Dunn and Howard Benton, Sun.

Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point: Revival, Oct. 5-7; 7 p.m. nightly; Terry Long, speaker; special music nightly.

Holly Springs Church, Foxworth: Homecoming, Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch and afternoon singing; Billy James, speaker; Dianna Pounds and group and other guests, music; Ron Jordan, pastor.

Goss Church, Columbia: Revival, Oct. 15-18; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Chuck Register, Gulfport, speaker; Bernie Parker, Columbia, music; Mark McArthur, pastor.

Hillcrest Church, Byram: Senior-led revival, Oct. 6-8; Fri.-Sat., 6 p.m.; Sun., 10:25 a.m.; Gene Henderson, Bill Causey, Fred Hutto, and Jimmy McClendon, speakers; Graham Smith, Lake Washington Church Quartet, the McClendons, Hillcrest Church Choir; Charlie Elam Trio, Fred Hutto Jr., and others, music.

Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Campers on Mission, speakers and music; Johnny Parks, pastor.

Liberty Hill Church, Pope: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Matt Jones, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.

McAdams Church, Attala Association: Homecoming, Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Joe Blackwell, Tylertown, speaker; James Young, pastor.

Military Church, Sumrall: Revival, Oct. 15-18; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Mike Aultman, pastor.

Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg: Homecoming, Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid: Homecoming, Oct. 8; 10:30 a.m., music with Crystal Tanner; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and local singers; Ken Pegram, speaker.

North Calvary Church, Philadelphia: Homecoming, Oct. 8; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mike Skinner, speaker; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman: Homecoming and Renovation Dedication, Oct. 8, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Ronnie Cooper, speaker; sanctuary choir, music.

Siloam Church, West Point: Homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by meal; Walter Simmons, speaker; Rell Webber, music; Mike Fondren, Sr., pastor.

Sunrise Church, Leake County: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

Union Church, Tylertown: Homecoming, Oct. 7-8; Sat., gospel concert, 6 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Billy Brumfield, speaker; Chosen, music; Millard Moak, pastor.

Union West Church, Oxford: Revival, Oct. 15-18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Jarrett, speaker; Joel Worley, music.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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YMJ QTWI MFYM RFIJ

GFWJ MNX MTQD FWR

NS YMJ JDX TK FQQ YMJ

SFYNTSX; FSI FQQ YMJ

JSIX TK YMJ JFWYM

XMFQQ XIJ YMJ

XFQAFYNTS TK TZW LTI.

NXFNFM KNKYD-YBT:YJS

Q = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Exodus Fourteen: Thirteen.

"Normal" people live paycheck to paycheck.
"Normal" people divorce over money fights.
"Normal" people are broke.

Don't be **NORMAL!**



FINANCIAL PEACE

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MS POSITIONS

GOODWATER BAPTIST CHURCH is accepting resumes for a part-time Minister of Youth position and part-time Paid Nursery Worker position, through October 19, 2006. Send resumes to: 1313 Goodwater Road N.W., Magee, MS 39111.

UNION WEST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAFAYETTE COUNTY is seeking a minister of music. Please send resume to Union West Baptist Church, 794 CR Oxford, Miss. 38655, attn: Bro Derek Starnes or call (662) 234-1338.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, MISS., is looking for a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: minister of

music search committee, P. O. Box 98, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

FULL-TIME POSITION OF MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH. Must have experience with contemporary-style praise and worship music. Please send resume to 426 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042. Or call (601) 824-9404.

CENTER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMILTON, MISS., is seeking a bivocational minister of music. Please send resume to Center Hill Baptist Church, music search committee, P.O. Box 59, Hamilton, MS 39746.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MISS., is

seeking a bivocational music minister. Please send resumes to attn: search committee, 203 Ridge Park Cove North, Raymond, MS 39154 or email derle@jam.rr.com.

PART-TIME WORSHIP LEADER: FREEDOM BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUREL, MISS. Send resumes by fax: (601)428-1331 or email: eelmit@bellsouth.net.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER: FREEDOM BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUREL, MISS. We are open to either a full-time minister of children and education or part-time minister of children. Send resumes by fax: (601)428-1331 or email: eelmit@bellsouth.net.

CLASSIFIED ADS

INTERESTED IN REVIVAL? Five free booklets in quantity are available to leaders of ministries, Sunday school, and home groups. Visit www.keyto-revival.org or write: Alliance for Christian Fellowship, Int., P.O. Box 747, Burnet, TX 78611.

WANTED: OLD NURSERY TEACHING PICTURES FROM 1950S (for ministry project), burton.b@sbcglobal.net or call (214) 352-8406.

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

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SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

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MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND PRESCHOOL: Tuscaloosa, Alabama area church is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Minister of Children and Preschool. Please send resumes to: Five Points Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 3718 36th Street, Northport, AL, 35473 or email to 5pointspastor@comcast.net.

SMOKE-FREE BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO NIGHTLY RENTAL. Like home, all new furnishings, street level, no steps, breathtaking view, sleeps 6, no pets. Call (888) 879-0388.

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MINISTRY — MUSIC: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MICHIE, TENN., seeks a bivocational minister of music. Please send resume to Bro. Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357.

OBITUARY

David E. Townsend, 82, died at his home in Purvis Sept. 21, with interment Sept. 24 in Coaltown Cemetery. He was a member of Coaltown Church. He served three years in Southern Baptist mission work and received his doctor of theology degree. He spent 12 years in the United States Marine Corps during WWII, in Korea, and then retired from the Mississippi National Guard. He is survived by his daughter, Renee Townsend-Yun of Biloxi, sister Willie Mae Tarr, of Boise, Idaho, and his brother, John E. Townsend of Lompoc, Cal.

STATE CHANGES

Lowell Ingram, previously missions director of Noxubee Association and pastor of **Concord Church**, has been called as missions director of North Central Association.

John G. Brock, pastor of **Roseland Park Church, Picayune**, is retiring Oct. 15. He has pastored churches across Mississippi for 48 years, including First Church, Pass Christian; First Church, Gautier; Van Winkle Church, Jackson, and Ackerman Church, Ackerman. His last worship service at the church will be preached at 10:30 a.m., with a reception and ceremony to honor he and his wife Katherine from 5-7 p.m. The Brocks are relocating to 312 Westbury Lane, Florence, AL., 35633.

First Church, Richland, has called **Tim Moak** as minister of music. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, and previously served at minister of music at Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus. He comes with his wife Mary and children, Morgan and Mason.

Here today.

 **BAPTIST**

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Health care career tomorrow.

October 20-21, 2006

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Take Hold of Godliness

1 Timothy 4:6-16

By Arthur Story

Two years ago one of my nieces got married. Unfortunately my family and I were unable to attend the wedding. This past summer we had the opportunity to meet her husband. He is a considerate, humble, and a genuinely engaging young man. Oh, and he's as big as a house. He's six feet four inches tall and weighs about 300 pounds. In college he was a four year starter on the football team and currently he's playing in the NFL.

During our week together this summer it was interesting to listen to him answer everyone's questions. As he talked about playing in the NFL, three elements seemed to be evident in each conversation. The three recurring aspects were dietary intake, training, and then playing the game. In this week's study of 1 Timothy 4:6-16, we

see Paul giving Timothy similar instruction about how to be a strong Christian.

First, Paul instructs Timothy about receiving proper nourishment (verses 6-7). This initial instruction is multifaceted. Paul makes it clear that it is essential for Timothy to guard himself. Timothy must ensure that he takes in a healthy diet of sound doctrine. In addition, Timothy needs to avoid the unprofitable and even detrimental "irreverent and silly myths" of false teachers. Along with these, Timothy needs to assume the responsibility to move beyond himself and provide instruction to others.

As I observed my niece's husband this summer it was apparent that he was thoughtful about his diet because he didn't consume a bunch of junk food even though there was plenty around. Like all serious athletes,

Story

Equally important is our commitment to come alongside others and instruct them as a good teammate would with a less experienced player.

Next, Paul instructs Timothy to train (verses 7-10). The picture of training Paul gives here is of athletic training. It's a picture of those disciplines embraced by athletes to increase strength and develop ability. Paul's point to Timothy is to train in those things that lead to his strengthening in the faith and developing in godliness. A commitment to disciplines such as Bible study, corporate and private worship, fasting, and prayer are a part of the makeup of a solid training regimen in the life of every Christian.

At the beach this summer, my niece's husband pointed

he was keenly aware of his need to stay on a healthy diet to ensure his ability to train and play. Likewise each of us who follow Christ must recognize our need to take in healthy quantities of good spiritual food and to avoid the empty calories of spiritual junk food.

out the importance of regular training in a number of conversations. I have since watched him make this same point in interviews available on his team's web page. In athletics, a commitment to a proper diet isn't enough. Training is also needed. In the life of every Christian a devotion to sound doctrine isn't enough. We also need to train in godliness by embracing the spiritual disciplines revealed in Scripture.

Lastly, Paul instructs Timothy to demonstrate his godliness (verses 11-16). Timothy's commitment to a healthy intake of sound doctrine and his training in godliness would need to be lived out in front of others. While nutrition and training are beneficial for the individual they must reach beyond the life of the individual. Timothy's study of Scripture and his training and growth in godliness were at work strengthening him but that was not enough. Paul points out to Timothy that his life needs to reach beyond himself and benefit others.

No athlete that is a part of a team commits to a healthy diet and the discipline of

training for his own benefit. These commitments are designed to extend beyond the individual's gain to the advancement of the team. In a recent interview, my niece's husband talked about his need to continually develop so that his teammates could unreservedly rely on him. What would be the keys to this? His health (nutrition), training (practice) and additional experience (game play). The same is true for us as Christians. We need nourishment (sound doctrine), training (spiritual disciplines), and then we need to demonstrate godliness (a lived out faith).

Armchair quarterbacks are quick to speculate about what should've happened in Sunday's game, but unlike the players they aren't committed to a healthy diet and training and they aren't in the game. Tragically too many Christians are living this type of life. Each of us must devote ourselves to a good spiritual diet, training in godliness, and demonstrations of godliness.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Determine to Mature

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

By Cyndi Grace

Upon graduation from college, my mother, who never had many educational opportunities, said to me, "Now you know everything!" A college education to her was the end of the knowledge rainbow. I knew the only thing I had learned was how much more there was to learn. At graduation the speaker encouraged, "As long as you remain teachable and have a desire to learn, you will be a success." How true that is in our Christian lives. However, many Christians are satisfied with a John 3:16-only-life. The writer of Hebrews was finding that attitude among those he wrote and warned against it.

While our salvation is the singular most important event in our lives, the growth that comes

afterwards brings us to oneness with our Lord. In the Great Commission, Jesus said, "Go and make disciples..." He didn't say go and get people saved and that's it! He continued, "...teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you!" We must remain teachable; never losing the desire to learn. He meant for us to continue to grow and mature in Him...not be satisfied with just getting into heaven. The call to us, as it was to the Hebrews, is to go on to maturity.

I love the Gary Larsen Far Side cartoon which shows a student raising his hand saying, "May I be excused? My brain is full." While we may grin, our churches are filled with members who have said to God, "May I be excused from further maturity? I am full enough."

Grace

because they were still drinking milk (5:13-14). They continued only to lay the foundation of salvation but did not build upon it (6:1). We should notice also, these were not new Christians; they were Christians who were merely satisfied with milk...the basics.

How can we tell if we are maturing?

• **Are you hungry?** Before going through a growth spurt, my children's hunger was never satisfied. Likewise, if we are growing in Christ, we cannot get satisfied; we want more and more and not only for our benefit but for the kingdom for as we grow, we give more; our faith is shown by good works...we

Are we teachable? Are we maturing? Do we know more about Christ today than last month? Do we "look" more like Him in our actions to others? Do we trust Him more with our lives? The Hebrews struggled to stand firm in the faith and perhaps it was

begin to "observe all that Christ had commanded!"

• **How is your relationship with others?** Is there envy and strife? Paul stated that is a sign of immaturity. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). When we mature in Christ we begin to love like Christ. Our needs become less important in the shadow of what Christ wants to accomplish in our relationships.

• **How do you deal with adversity?** Only in maturing can we learn what it means to trust Christ completely. James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (NIV)

• **Do you love Christ more than anything else?** Jesus said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be my disciple." Luke

14:26 (NIV) A true mark of Christian maturity is when Christ is foremost in your thoughts and deeds.

How can we become mature? Ask God! Ask Him to increase in you a hunger for His Word. Ask Him to place in your heart a desire for Him alone. Ask Him to grow you in your relationships with others to be more Christ-like. Ask Him to strengthen you in adversity. John, the beloved disciple, said, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)

Salvation is the door to new life and once we enter, God wants us to grow through Him. Don't be satisfied with only milk...God has a feast for us who will continue to be teachable, learn, and mature.

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

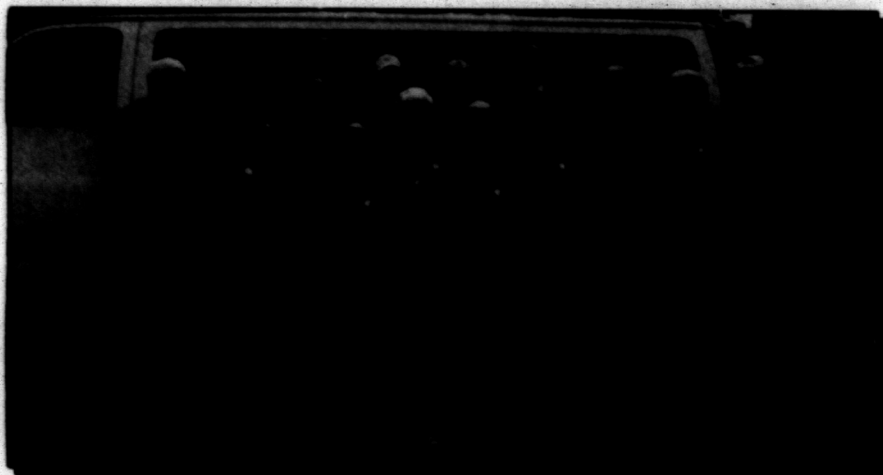
Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record



1. GAs Recognition Service, Lexie Church, Tylertown



2. Backyard Bible Club, Good Hope Church, Louisville

Oct. 8. Musical, 4:30 p.m., followed by refreshments and rededication, 6 p.m. Mike Smith, minister of music; Philip Price, pastor.

9. The youth of Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba, held a lock-in Sept. 8, featuring Lynn and Linda Potts, the evangelism team known as Pictures and Praise giving a chalk talk.

10. Star Church, Star, is hosting Judgement House, a walk-through drama; Oct. 28-29, 4 p.m.; Oct. 30-31, 6 p.m. \$1 donation requested; for reservations and info, call (601) 672-0702.

11. The Baptist Children's Village recently recognized Kay West for 30 years of service. She has served a missionary to BCV children in the position of houseparent on three of the five campuses.



West



3. GA Recognition Service, First Church, Long Beach



4. Central Hills Retreat Participants, Valley Grove Church, Pontotoc

1. The GAs of Lexie Church, Tylertown, held a recognition service in August. Shown are Amber Terrell, Hannah Thomas, MacKenzie Todora, Anna Belle Terrell, Whitney Johnson, Claudia Johnson, and Lorey Alford.

Pontotoc, at their retreat at Central Hills.

5. RAs and GAs from Fair River Church and Heucks Retreat Church (Lincoln County) recently held a "racers" competition with over 45 children participating.

2. Good Hope Church, Louisville, served alongside First Church, Long Beach, holding a Backyard Bible Club in a FEMA trailer part, holding prayer walks, and assisting a Long Beach homeowner with construction. Shown are the participants.

6. The drama, The Thread, will be presented at Crowder Church, Crowder, Oct. 7, 7 p.m., followed by a meal and volleyball for the youth. For more information, call (662) 326-8339.

3. The GAs of First Church, Long Beach, recently held an award ceremony. The children had been meeting in school rooms in spite of having lost their church to Katrina.

7. Lake Como Church, Bay Springs, is hosting a Complete Marriage Conference with speakers Wayne and Tina Hudson Oct. 20-21; Fri., 7-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch and dinner provided; reservations requested.

4. Shown are the children of Valley Grove Church,

8. First Church, Leakesville, is having a choir musical and sanctuary rededication

COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

On Oct. 19, Kirk Ford will be recognized at Mississippi College as the 2006 Humanities Lecturer and Arts & Sciences Distinguished Lecturer. A program will be held in Provine Chapel at 7:00 p.m. with a reception to follow in the Jennings Hall Courtyard. Ford's lecture is entitled "Winston Churchill — Soldier, Statesman, Citizen of the World" and co-sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council and Mississippi College. There is no charge to attend and the public is invited.



Ford

Homecoming at Mississippi College is October 13-14 instead of November 13-14 as previously announced.

New Orleans Seminary student enlistment office will sponsor a Preview Weekend for prospective seminary students on Oct. 26-28. As guests, prospective students will tour the campus, meet faculty and staff, and learn more about admission requirements, degree programs, cost of attendance, financial aid, scholarships, housing, student organizations, and other important information about life at NOBS. Activities available include opportunities to attend classes, a special chapel service, meetings with professors in the prospective student's area of interest, a special reception at the President's home and a dinner on the town with a faculty member. Event activities begin Thursday at 4:30 p.m. and conclude Saturday at 10:30 a.m. The

registration deadline is two weeks before the event. The cost for the weekend is \$25 per person. This fee pays for two nights of accommodations and dinner Thursday night, 3 meals on Friday and breakfast on Saturday morning. Those interested can receive registration forms by contacting the Office of Student Enlistment at (800) NOBS-01, ext. 3303. To read more about Preview Weekend, visit www.nobts.edu/Enlistment/PreviewWeekend.html.

A grand opening ceremony for the Think Together Tutoring Center at Hunter Oaks Apartments was held on Sept. 27. Mississippi College has teamed with Sam Anderson, a 1957 MC graduate, to begin the "Think Together" after-school tutoring pilot program for the approximately 140 school age children who live in the Clinton apartment complex owned by Anderson. The program began September and provides 45 minutes of tutoring weekday afternoons for the children grades kindergarten through 12.

Tommy King, executive vice president at William Carey University; Ralph Noonkester, president emeritus; Stan Burton, vice chairman of the WCU Board of Trustees; Argile Smith, vice president for advancement; and Joe Riley, vice president for business affairs, recently participated in the September 27 groundbreaking ceremony for four new residential halls to be located on the Hattiesburg campus.

Mississippi College has announced that its annual spring break trip in 2007 will visit London and Edinburgh. Dates of the trip are March 8-17, 2007. Please call (601) 925-3225 or email dnorris@mc.edu to request a brochure giving details of the trip.

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